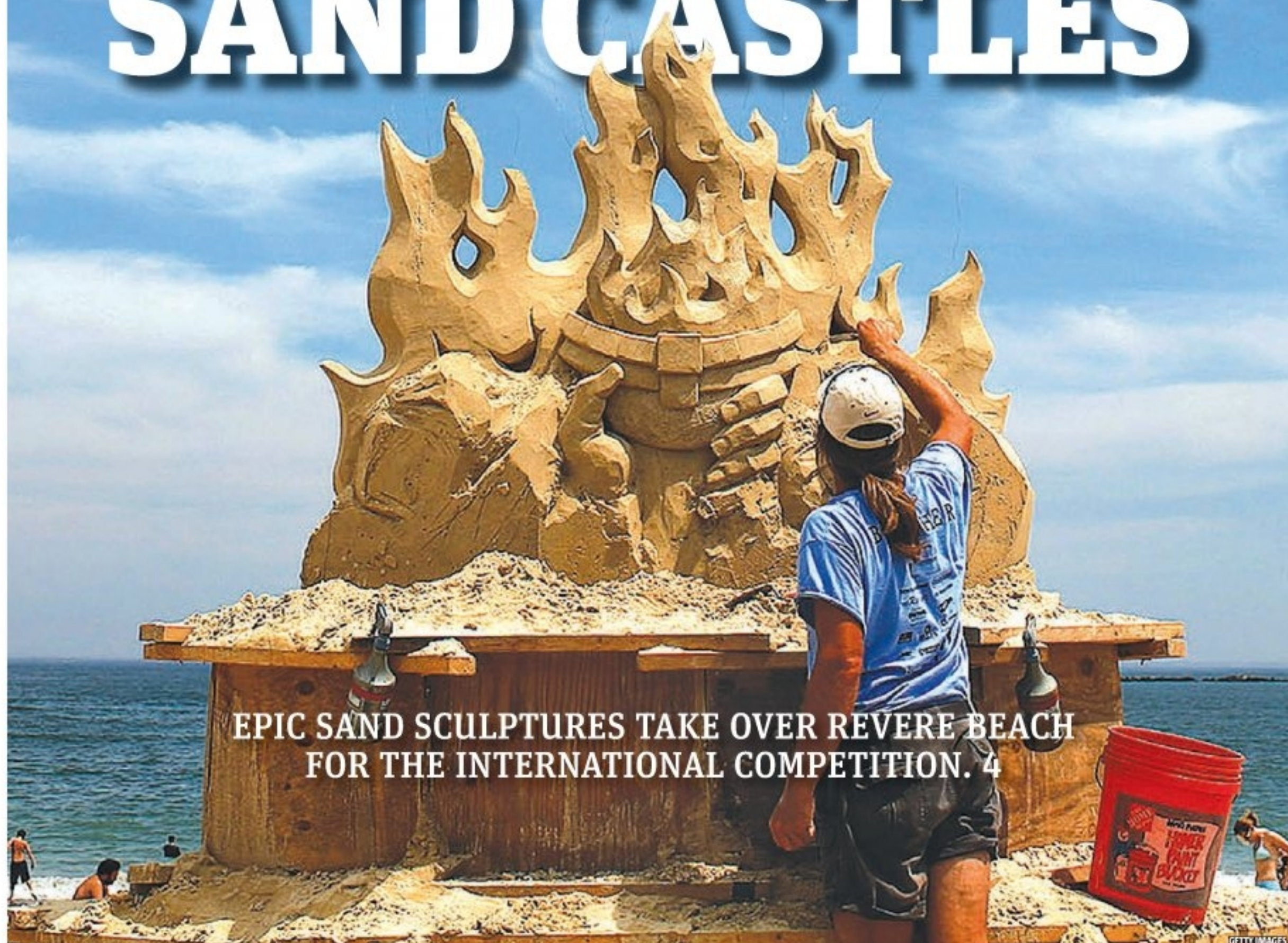


NOT YOUR AVERAGE SAND CASTLES



EPIC SAND SCULPTURES TAKE OVER REVERE BEACH
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION. 4

WELCOME TO
WKND

MATT JUHL, BOSTON FEATURES EDITOR

The weather is heating up this weekend, which means it's time to hit the beach. While you're working on that tan, artists will turn Revere Beach into a showcase of sandy masterpieces for the International Sand Sculpting Festival. Not interested in soaking up the sun? There's plenty of other fun stuff going on in the city. We've got your weekend plan.

SEE SHAKESPEARE
AT BOSTON COMMON

The popular outdoor theater series Shakespeare on the Common returned this week with a production of "Romeo and Juliet." Although director Allegra Libonati says

that the show will stay faithful to its source material, expect a more "feminist stance" on how things play out for these star-crossed lovers.

For more, see page 8.

BOSTON BIKERS
BARE ALL

2 Locals are in for an eyeful this weekend as the World Naked Bike Ride rolls back into Boston. On Saturday, participants will strip down for a 10-mile trek around the city. Organizers invite attendees to "ride as bare as you dare."

For more, see page 6.

SAND SCULPTORS
COMPETE AT
REVERE BEACH

3 Park your beach chairs, this is going to be good. The International Sand Sculpting Festival will take over Revere Beach July 21-23. Close to a million people are expected to stop by the festivities, which will feature sandy masterpieces from 15 of the world's best sand sculptors. For more, see page 4.



GETTY IMAGES

5
THINGS
TO DOJUDD APATOW BRINGS
LAUGHS TO NEW ENGLAND

4 It's been a while since Judd Apatow made a living solely as a stand-up comedian, but the filmmaker is back on the road and kicks off the New England leg of his tour this weekend. The acclaimed writer and director dishes about his return to Boston, 10 years of "Knocked Up" and more. For more, see pages 10-11.

KENDRICK LAMAR
LIGHTS UP THE GARDEN

5 Grammy Award-winning rapper Kendrick Lamar is back in Boston this weekend for a Saturday night show with Travis Scott and D.R.A.M. at the TD Garden. Fresh off the release of his latest chart-topping album "Damn," K. Dot is at the top of his game right now, so expect local hip-hop fans to come out in force. For more, see pages 16-17.



TWEETS

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Paul Pierce will retire in green



@BostonAttitude
Wait, today (yesterday) is just day one of a possible heatwave... #Boston





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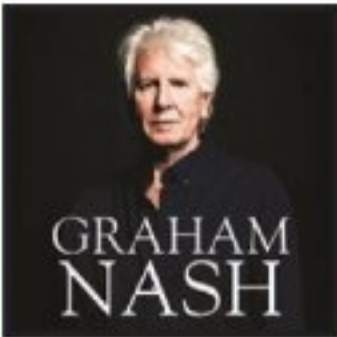


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Friday, July 21



Saturday, July 22

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FESTIVAL

Friday, August 4

AMOS LEE

Sunday, August 6

DAWES

Saturday, August 12

LYLE LOVETT &
HIS LARGE BAND

Friday, August 18

BUDDY GUY

Saturday, August 19

DAVID GRISMAN
SEXTET

Sunday, August 20

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Saturday, August 26

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8/3 Stacey Peasley Songs

See sandy masterpieces this weekend.
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

International Sand Sculpting Festival returns to Revere Beach

Put away your shovel and see how the pros do it. CATHERINE PERLOFF

Close to a million people are expected to stop by the 14th annual International Sand Sculpting Festival, which takes on Revere Beach from July 21 through 23.

The event represents a time to enjoy a warm weekend in July with family and friends. However, for the 15 professional sand sculptors who are competing, it's serious business.

"Revere Beach is one of the top three competitions in the world," says Meredith Corson-Doubleday, who helps organize the event through her Florida-based company Sanding Ovations. "All the competitors here are world champion level."

Competitors come from across the globe to Boston's shores to create enormous sand masterpieces, which they must sculpt between Wednesday and Saturday. Three expert judges will then decide on a winner, doling out over \$40,000 in cash prizes. Spectators also play a role by choosing which sculpture will take home the People's Choice Award.

"It's not just their

ability that comes to play. It's their personality," says Corson-Doubleday. "We love sculptors that carve from the heart."

In addition to the individual sculptures, the international sand artists will work together to create a 20-foot wide sand replica of the USS Constitution as well as a 10-foot tall lighthouse, homes to the Boston landmark leaving dry dock on July 23 and last month's tall ships extravaganza.

World-renowned sand sculptors aren't the only ones who spend the year anticipating the festival. The Revere Beach Partnership organizes and hosts the annual event, seeking to showcase and draw visitors to

America's oldest public beach.

"We do this because we think it's a great way to expose the children and families to something they otherwise

seeks to maintain and revitalize the beach as a community resource.

"Our mission is to continue the heritage of Revere Beach as a nearby retreat for working people from New England," Hamel says. "Our belief is that not everyone can afford

to go to the Cape and nor should they have to leave the Greater Boston area to enjoy a nice day at the beach."

Hamel adds, "We recognize that the beach itself is a natural resource in of itself that enriches people's lives."

To this end, the sand sculpting festival is not only an opportunity for New Englanders to see sand art, but enjoy a unique summer beach day. There will be a merry-go-round, a Ferris wheel and a kiddie coaster, plus sand castle lessons and other chil-

If you go

July 21-23, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. on Sunday, Revere Beach, Revere, free, reverebeachpartnership.com

dren's activities. Families can enjoy live music and entertainment throughout the festival and grab bites from several food vendors and food trucks.

Festival-goers definitely won't want to miss Saturday night's sculpture awards ceremony at 6 p.m. or the fireworks show at 9 p.m. After the festivities, the sculptures are open to the public until they eventually succumb to natural erosion. Corson-Doubleday says the sand arts' short-lived nature provides a unique challenge to artists.

"The reason so many of us do this is because it's not permanent," she says. "There's so much more intrigue because it's not going to be there for a long time."



The fest is one of the world's top sand sculpting events.

wouldn't see," says John Hamel, the organization's board president.

The partnership formed as Revere Beach fell off in popularity in the late 20th century and

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5 Things to know about Boston's World Naked Bike Ride

Gears up, clothes off.

HENRY JANI

Every year, cyclists around the world ride together in the buff during the World Naked Bike Ride in hopes of creating positive social change. The Boston chapter, which began eight years ago, will kick off this year's festivities in Jamaica Plain with bikers making their way to Cambridge in just their birthday suits. Here are some facts to know for anyone interested in this *au naturel* social-justice event.

1. Defend biker's rights and protest nonrenewable energy

At first glance, it can be quite easy to label this event an exhibitionist experiment or a wacky, intimidating affair. This,



Join the worldwide movement of biking in your birthday suit. ISTOCK

however, is really not the case. "The World Naked Bike Ride started as a protest against oil dependence and its a great way to highlight the vulnerability that cyclists face every day on the street," explains

organizer Ellyn Thompson. She points out that traffic incidents cause many cyclist deaths each year in Boston, and that riding naked attracts more attention to the cause while also promoting "amazing body

positivity."

2. Anyone can ride

Everyone who rides a bike, from Lance Armstrong-types to daily commuters, are welcome to partake in the WNBR. Thompson says that the

event attracts all types of people and means something different for each individual. For example, she most prizes the fact that this event is all about avoiding body shame, and that they really do look forward to seeing all kinds of different body types, sizes, genders, colors and ages.

3. You don't actually have to be naked

WNBR wants to make sure that everyone knows nudity for this event is completely optional. "We have 'as bare as you dare' as our slogan of sorts — there is no pressure to be nude," clarifies Thompson. "However, I will say it is totally comfortable and fun riding naked." Riders are also encouraged to wear creative costumes that conceal their faces if they would prefer to remain anonymous.

4. Kick off the night with a party

If you go:

July 22, 6 p.m.,
Jamaica Plain, free,
wnbrboston.com

The bike ride this year will begin at a private space in Jamaica Plain for "disrobing, body paint, and getting to know each other," according to Thompson. This will start at 6 p.m. and the exact location of this venue will be announced 24 hours in advance of the ride on social media and on the WNBR Boston website.

5. Finish off at Flat Top Johnny's

After the ride, bikers and spectators alike are invited to Flat Top Johnny's pool hall and bar for food, refreshments and fun. Replenish all those burned calories with a cold glass of Sam Adams lager and a juicy burger.

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See 'Romeo and Juliet' under the stars. GETTY IMAGES



If you go

Now through Aug. 6,
Boston Common,
139 Tremont St.,
free, commshakes.org

Shakespeare on the Common takes a 'feminist stance'

The company is putting its own spin on "Romeo and Juliet." HENRY JANI

Watch star-crossed lovers under the stars this summer at the Shakespeare on the Common production of "Romeo and Juliet." Performed by the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, theater buffs and newbies alike can watch the free, outdoor show held at Boston Common starting this week.

"We are staying very true to the text," says di-

rector Allegra Libonati. However, this doesn't mean there haven't been a few changes. Libonati explains that while "Romeo and Juliet" can sometimes seem ubiquitous and commonplace, it is still an "amazing piece of work" that can hold many connections to our modern society.

Most notably, a "feminist stance" will be taken in this iteration with

some strategic casting choices and a surprise ending for the Montagues and Capulets. This comes with a slew of other theater productions recently crossing over into the political realm. Back in November, vice president Mike Pence attended a showing of "Hamilton" and received criticism from the audience and cast. A Shakespeare in the Park

production of "Julius Caesar" also came under fire last month for using Donald Trump as the Roman dictator.

"I deeply respect the Julius Caesar production," explains Libonati. "But I also love the idea of setting a play in a past period and really letting the text speak. The audience can pick up on these topics and analyze them through a current

lens."

Other unique additions include a dance party, a big Venetian puppet parade and other grand spectacles throughout each night. For those who are not so familiar with the show, "Romeo and Juliet" tells the tale of two teenagers in Verona, Italy, who fall in love despite belonging to the quarrelling Capulet and Montague

houses. Underlying themes of war, political dissension, and religion are crucial to the play and will certainly be upheld in the Commonwealth production.

"We are really focusing on making the play resonate with the audience, speaking to all those things that cause prejudice and violence in our world," Libonati says.

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Judd Apatow is cool with Katherine Heigl, hints at a 'Knocked Up' sequel

The filmmaker talks performing in Boston and the 10th anniversary of the hit comedy.

MATT JUUL

It's hard to believe it's been 10 years since Judd Apatow introduced us to Ben and Alison, the one-night stand turned unlikely parents played by Seth Rogen and Katherine Heigl in the hit comedy "Knocked Up."

Although the sort-of spin-off "This Is 40" offered a glimpse at how Paul Rudd and Leslie Mann's characters are dealing with parenthood these days, fans are still wondering about the future of the series' original couple. Well, the wait may be over soon according to Apatow, as the comedian and film-

maker revealed to us that a sequel could happen in the near future.

Before the New England leg of his tour stops in Boston, Providence and Connecticut this weekend, the 49-year-old star opened up about doing another "Knocked Up" movie, returning to stand-up after his hiatus and what it was like to film at the old Boston Garden.

After taking a break from stand-up, is it weird being back on stage?

It's just so fun coming back to stand-up. It was all I ever wanted to do. Everything else has been an offshoot. When I was a kid, I was obsessed with [Jerry] Seinfeld and [Jay] Leno and I loved watching comedians on talk shows. I did stand-up from the time I was 17 until I was 24, then I just got busy



Judd Apatow performs at the Wilbur on July 24. PROVIDED

doing other things. Now that I'm older and have children and a life, I have much more to say today than when I was a kid.

This year is the 10th anniversary of "Knocked Up" hitting theaters. How are Seth Rogen and Katherine Heigl's characters doing as parents these days?

That's a very good question. I've thought about it a lot. There may be another movie in it one day, so I won't give away any answers. Who knows?

Are you and Heigl cool now after her initial, negative response to the film?

Yeah.

You recently donated to a local arts grant and will give a portion of the tour's proceeds to Boys &

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Girls Clubs in New England. What compels you to give back with your comedy work?

One of the best aspects of me doing stand-up at this stage of my life is that I can make a lot of the shows for charity. When I was coming to Boston and we were talking about adding a second show, I said, "Let's do it for charity." We talked to a bunch of organizations, and there's the Greater Boston After School Arts Fund, that helps support art programs at Boston high schools. We need those more than anything. Arts programs change kids lives just as much as sports or anything else. They're often the first department to get caught.

Do you think you could write a movie as comedic or tragic as what's going on with Donald Trump's White House?

It's giving everyone a lot of anxiety. Everyday there's some new, strange detail. I don't think most people think we're in very safe hands. It is satirical, but it's real and it's concerning. You don't

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want the leaders of your country to be comfortable lying. You don't want them to do all sorts of meetings and accidentally leave the names of the people they meet with off all of their forms. For Republicans and Democrats, it makes them nervous because you don't know what's going on, you don't know what interests they're serving. Yes, 20 years from now it will be very comical and someone will make a hilarious miniseries out of it. Right now, it's troubling.

Does all the Trump talk bleed into your stand-up work at all?

I talk about politics a little bit because I don't know how you avoid it. There's too much going on and we're thinking about it all day. It's hard not to dip into a little bit

of what's happening.

Do you like visiting Boston?

I haven't spent an enormous amount of time in Boston. I had a great show there with Amy Schumer, Dave Atell, Colin Quinn and Mike Birbiglia when we did the "Trainwreck" tour at the Wilbur two years ago. Many years ago, I made a movie called "Celtic Pride" with Damon Wayans, Dan Aykroyd and Daniel Stern about a bunch of Boston Celtics fans who kidnap the star of the Utah Jazz. We were able to shoot at Boston Garden right up until they tore it down. We were the last thing that happened at Boston Garden.

What was it like filming one of your first comedies here?

It was exciting! A lot of the legends did cameos in the movie. I remember the day when Bob Cousy was there and I believe Red Auerbach was still around in '95. It was just really funny. Boston has always been the premiere comedy town in the country.



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8 Cool public art spaces to check out around Boston

Here's where you can find a Picasso and other artistic pieces around town. **HENRY JANI**

Sometimes, viewing art can just feel too stuffy. And expensive. And indoors.

For when you want to see a Picasso without fighting lines for guided tour viewings, public art should do the trick. Our list includes sculpture, murals, architecture and other projects that can all be enjoyed while also soaking in the sun.

1 Subway Stops

Running down the T station stairs just to see that you missed the train? Cheer up, as you might have a chance to enjoy some public artistry while waiting for the next one. For example, 15 out of the 22 stations on the Red Line have some sort of sculpture, mural or other installation on display. The dynamic, undulating kites at "Gift of the Wind" in Porter Square is a staple as well as the 31

granite chairs in Central called "Situations." Various MBTA stations

2 Mayor's Mural Crew

The Mayor's Mural Crew has been employing mostly high school students for the summer and giving them space to show off their creative sides. "This summer, we are working in Roslindale, Jamaica Plain and East Boston," says director Heidi Schork. A circular,

floral street painting has already been placed at the corner of South and South Conway streets near the Roslindale Village commuter rail station. New paintings and projects can be followed on the Mayor's Mural Crew Facebook page. Various locations

3 Peter's Park Mural
Peter's Park Mural is a legal graffiti wall that has served as a canvas for the



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The next class is starting August 16, 2017 and space is limited!

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NECAT
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Head to Peter's Park to see this patriotic mural. PROVIDED

city's artists since 1986. A request for proposals back in February selected Massachusetts College of Art and Design graduate Genaro Ortega to paint the wall's next addition. Completed in May, his work is a stunning mix of geometric shapes and intricate spray painting depicting a black woman, swaddled in an American flag, being freed from her chains by several birds. 1277 Washington St.

4 MIT Campus

Engineers can certainly get in touch with their creative side thanks to all the artwork around MIT. Notable offerings

are "The Alchemist," a steel tangle of letters shaped into a squatting person, and the modernistic "Aesop's Fables, II." Pablo Picasso's "Figure Découpée" is located in a courtyard near the Sloan School.

77 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge

5 Brattle Book Shop

The Brattle Book Shop's outdoor sale lot is also home to what is arguably one of the most pleasant alleyways in the city. A huge mural featuring portraits of cherished authors sits above the expanse of bargain books on sale. Writers you can see include W.B. Yeats, Franz Kafka and Toni Morrison.

9 West St.

6 Kennedy Greenway

This one and a half mile stretch of park space has played an integral role in crafting and redefining downtown's urban identity. Anyone located in Chinatown to the North End can frolic in this oasis of shrubbery which also features several public art installations. Medhi Ghadyanloo's

"Spaces of Hope" mural dominates Dewey Square Park, while an Ames room optical illusion near Hanover St. allows viewers to literally step into the art.

Atlantic Ave. and High St.

7 Boston Public Garden

We all know the Duckling Sculpture buzzing with tourists at the Boston Public Garden. However, a collection of other impressive statues, fountains and sitting areas can be appreciated while ambling amongst the willows and tulips on a summer day. For example, bronze statues of the abolitionists Charles Sumner and Wendell Phillips can be viewed near Boylston Street.

4 Charles St.

8 Graffiti Alley

Take several steps from the Central Square station and then one big step into a completely different world at Graffiti Alley. This showcase of ever-changing, lively spray paint art is tucked in between two unassuming buildings under a transparent awning. Graffiti Alley, Cambridge

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When Harry Styles met Christopher Nolan

The filmmaker swears he had no idea who the One Direction star was when he cast him in "Dunkirk." **LUCIA HERNANDEZ**

With "Dunkirk," Christopher Nolan wants you to feel like you're really there. The latest from the acclaimed filmmaker is a World War II epic, dropping us into the aftermath of the Battle of Dunkirk, in which 400,000 English soldiers were trapped on a beach in the north of France. Home was a short trip across the sea, but they

were surrounded by the German army. Their rescue is the stuff of legend.

But Nolan doesn't want you to get bogged down in details. "Dunkirk" isn't a Wikipedia movie. It's no mere history lesson.

"The most important thing for me was to demonstrate what it felt like to the people who were really there," Nolan says.

He didn't want there to be too much information or an abundance of war movie clichés. "I wanted to tell an intensely subjective story that gave the public a wider view of what happened, but without the need for [shots of] barracks, generals and maps."

He also didn't want to use special effects. He wanted every plane, ev-

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Harry Styles, far left, makes his movie acting debut in Christopher Nolan's "Dunkirk," in theaters Friday. WARNER BROS. PICTURES

every ship, every location to be real.

"With this film, I realized the true value of the genuine, of authenticity." Shots with a thou-

sand soldiers lined up on the beach really do feature a thousand actors. "When you see real photos of this, it immediately catches your at-

tention. It's interesting to give something like this to the audience, to show what it was like to be formed there, waiting in the middle of nowhere for days."

The cast of "Dunkirk" is huge, mostly filled with extras. There are big names littered about: Tom Hardy as a hotshot pilot who guns down enemy planes; Kenneth Branagh as an anguished commander trying to get his boys home; Mark Rylance as one of many English civilians who drove their boats across the Channel, ferrying soldiers back home. But many of our leads are unknowns — young actors in their first big film. One of those is Fionn Whitehead, who plays Tommy, a private who's the closest thing this ensemble picture has to a lead.

"We needed young strangers to play those characters," Nolan explains. "I didn't want 31-year-olds doing 19-year-old roles. We wanted people to see guys with no expectations about whether

they will survive or not."

And then there's Harry Styles. Nolan was having trouble casting the role of Alex, one of the other key young soldiers. As they searched, The One Directioner sent an audition tape.



GETTY IMAGES

"We told him, 'Well, if you want to come in like any stranger and try this thing you've never done before, you're welcome,'" Nolan recalls. Styles did just that. After what Nolan calls "audition workshops" — in which actors spend several days switching parts, acting alongside each other, forming a group — he felt Styles was "perfect."

It helped that Nolan definitely isn't up with popular music. "Harry who?" he jokes. "When the auditions took place, I did not know who he was. My children knew who he was, but I hadn't seen much of him, because of my age."

Having a big time star dominate the conversation over one of his films reminds Nolan of when he cast Heath Ledger as the Joker

in "The Dark Knight." "That raised lots of eyebrows of disapproval or doubt, because they didn't know how he would work," Nolan remembers. "But it's part of my job to look for that potential."

"Dunkirk" is an intense experience, even moreso than his three "Batman" movies or "Inception" or "Interstellar." It demands the audience pay attention, not look at their smartphones, keep their brains switched on. But Nolan swears he doesn't have any loftier ambitions than to keep you watching the screen.

"My goal is first and foremost to entertain," Nolan explains. "What cinema can do for the audience is give them an invigorating experience that they could not safely experience in their lives — that will take them to a place where they would never imagine, be it a place of fiction or Dunkirk. My hope is that at the end of the film, the audience will take a break and think, 'OK, that was an experience.'"

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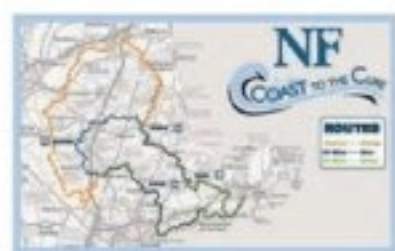
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Figment

This unique art festival features all kinds of interactive installations to explore, stretching up the Greenway from Dewey Square like an unfurling multiverse of sensory wonderment. Kids, ever-bored in stuffy old museums, should get a kick out of "art you can play with." There's also a special "After Dark" program Saturday night, with music, dancing and special nighttime installations. **July 22 and 23, Rose Kennedy Greenway, free, boston.figmentproject.org**

MUSIC**Kendrick Lamar**

Kendrick Lamar's career is such a behemoth at this point that it's not surprising he gave his latest record

the elegant title "Damn." He's that rare artist who achieves major-league success while retaining his "socially conscious" cred. Maybe it's his sheer charisma—many would call him the best rapper in the game right now—but it's a good sign regardless.

July 22, 7:30 p.m., TD Garden, 100 Legends Way, \$114-\$600, ticketmaster.com

MUSIC

PROVIDED

Dawn

Singer-songwriter Dawn Richard got her start in pop music 2004 as a member of the girl group Danity Kane, but in the years since their breakup she's established herself as a distinctive and ambitious purveyor of dance pop and R&B, showcasing her astonishing vocal range and flamboyant style. This past November, she released her third solo album, "Redemption." **July 20, 9:30 p.m., Great Scott, 1222 Comm. Ave., \$10-\$12, 18+, greatscott-boston.com**

MOVIES**"The NeverEnding Story"**

The bizarre creatures and landscapes in the bonkers 1984 kids' fantasy "The NeverEnding Story" are only more amazing to behold in the CGI era. Yeah, those ape movies look real good, but they don't look like Luck Dragon good—that is, completely terrifying. It's nearly as creepy as "The Dark Crystal," but much sillier, which makes it all the more fun to rewatch. **July 20, 7 p.m., 290 Harvard St., Brookline, \$10-\$13, coolidge.org**

COMEDY**Unsportsmanlike Comedy with Rob Gronkowski**

Patriots star Rob Gronkowski has a funny way of staying busy off the gridiron—a search on YouTube finds him pranking unsuspecting Lyft riders, appearing in a 3LAU music video, roasting David Ortiz and even crashing a Sean Spicer press conference. And on Friday,

THEATER

PROVIDED

"Fish Food"

Avenue Stage premieres this comedy by Michael O'Halloran, set in Boston in 1990. Our hero, Joe Bacon, just buried his father, but he's also found a new job answering phones at the run-down Plaza Court Hotel. His boss, an infamous business mogul trying to revamp the property, may be named Avery Grand, but he sounds a heck of a lot like Donald Trump. **July 20 through 23, Boston Playwrights' Theater, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston, \$10-\$20, avenuestage.org**

Gronk's your host at this comedy showcase featuring Justin McKinney, Finesse Mitchell, Jay Larson, John Caparulo and Lenny Clarke. **July 21, 8 p.m., Showcase Live, 23 Patriot Pl., Foxboro, \$29-\$34, tickets.showcaselive.com**

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THEATER



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Aisha Burns

Indie folk singer Aisha Burns has played in a few different project over the last decade and change, but she didn't go solo until 2013, with "Life in the Midwater," a record fueled by a mystical energy and marked by Burns' lamenting violins and her high, clear voice, cutting through the fog of life like a bright, unflagging light. July 22, 8 p.m., Homestead Bakery and Café, 1448 Dorchester Ave., \$10, aishaburns.com

40 comedians from across the U.S. compete in this five-day joke-off to win spot at the finals in Las Vegas, competing with the winners in various other cities. The audience gets to put in their two cents, so choose wisely—you may be helping make a career. Through July 22, Laugh Boston, 425 Summer St., \$20, laughboston.com

DRINK

Dorchester Brewing Co. first anniversary bash

It's tough for any new business to make it to the one year mark, but Dorchester Brewing has even more to celebrate considering it's in the crowded craft-beer game. It's partying all day Saturday with a pig roast, live music and a fresh beer

release—all in a space double the size of its normal events, thanks to a special permit. July 22, 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., Dorchester Brewing Co., 1250 Mass. Ave., free, 21+, dorchesterbrewing.com

Sunday Funday at GrandTen Distilling

So you'd like to go out to drink, but you also want to game with your gaming friends? We've got a good place for you. On Sundays GrandTen Distilling has a gaming day, with classic board games like "Risk" and even the good old 8-bit NES, plus a special cocktail menu to see you through these lengthy excursions.

Every Sunday, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., GrandTen Distilling, 383 Dorchester Ave., no cover, grandten.com

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LAWN GAMES



BSSC

BSSC Cornhole Classic

Cornhole, the sport of kings. What—no one calls it that? Well, that needs to change. The gloves come off at the Lawn on D this Saturday at the premiere cornhole tournament of the season. The winner gets a cool \$500. Registration is closed, but you can still come down and watch, because this is going to get heated. July 23, 1 p.m., Lawn on D, 420 D Street, free, bssc.com

GOING OUT



MARIO RUBÉN CARRIÓN

Culture Club (Part I)

No, it's not a performance by Boy George's band, but it's pretty dang cool: a combination outdoor art show and dance night, with DJs Gucci Vuitton and Riobamba spinning tunes and such attractions as Pat Falco's electronics trash yard, William Chambers' mobile embroidery unit and more from illustrator Matthew Zarembo and new media artist Sam Okerstrom-Lang. Part 2 happens in August. July 21, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., Institute of Contemporary Art, 25 Harbor Shore Dr., \$15, icaboston.com

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New technology allows you to photograph food, get the recipe

MIT researchers developed a system to identify ingredients and recipes just from a picture.



KRISTIN TOUSSAINT
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When eating out, many people photograph their food before digging in. What if those photos could help you re-create the dish at home?

It sounds like the fictional failed app See-Food from the HBO show "Silicon Valley," but it's real (and more effective) thanks to researchers at MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL).

The researchers have developed an artificial intelligence system they've dubbed "Pic2Recipe" that will provide a list of ingredients and even an actual recipe just from a photo

of your meal.

The idea seems simple — upload a photo and in return, the system predicts the ingredients and taps into a database to suggest several recipes it determines to be similar — but the execution has been the result of hard work.

"Understanding food images is a difficult problem that even research teams at places like Google have trouble with," said Nick Hynes, an MIT CSAIL graduate student and lead author of the paper that details the system.

"Researchers have explored this before, but have used much smaller data sets or ones that don't generalize as well as to different types of cuisine," he said. "Recently, Pinterest developed an algorithm for food recognition, but it simply recognizes the type of food — i.e. 'turkey,' 'banana' — rather than drawing on actual recipes."



Pic2Recipe, developed by MIT CSAIL researchers, can identify ingredients and suggest recipes from a photo of food. PIXABAY

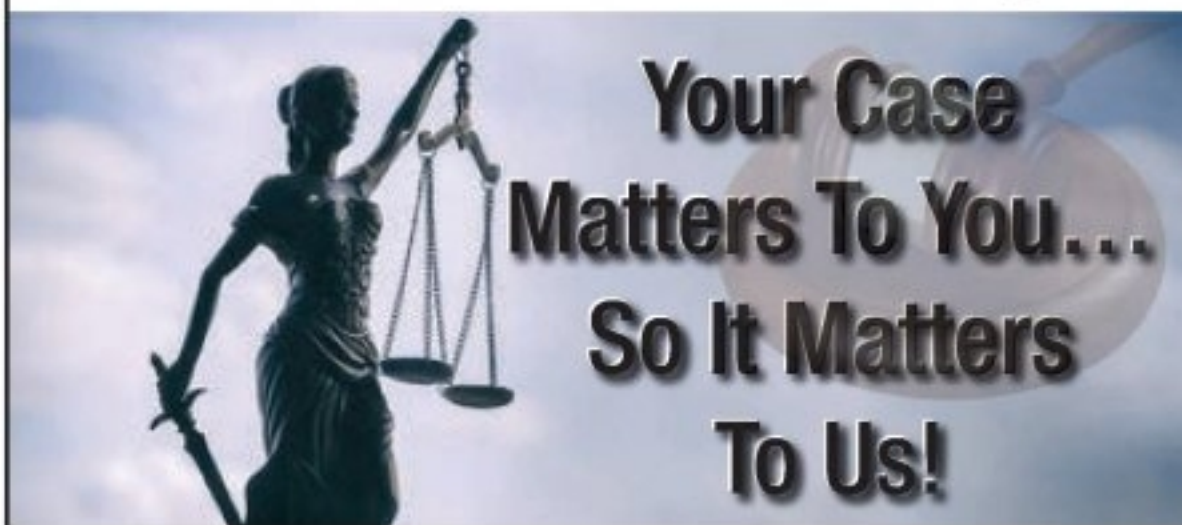
The researchers have been working on their system for about a year, Hynes explained, during which they've built a database of more than 1 million recipes.

Pic2Recipe doesn't only identify ingredients based on image, but has also been trained to find patterns, make connections and to consider the meal as a whole.

Researchers see people using this to track nutrition or take a picture of a restaurant meal, so they can try making it at home.

The system is still in the early stages, however, and Hynes said it needs some improvement identifying blended foods like smoothies and soups, or distinguishing between similar dishes like a BLT versus a Reuben.

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UFO Reporting Center

Most places in the U.S. that are known for their UFO activity tend to be isolated parts of the southwestern desert or heavily forested areas of the Pacific Northwest. But it turns out that one of the best places to look for UFOs is a town better known for golf and sunburned vacationers. Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, has played host to a huge number of sightings. And while it hasn't held as notable extraterrestrial pedigree as, say, Roswell, the people of the beach town have been diligent in reporting on the appearances of UFOs.

The National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC) is chock full of sightings from tourists and locals alike describing the presence of floating orange orbs, leap-frogging lights, mysterious triangular light formations, and giant fire-like spheres hanging over the water.

Sedona, Arizona

Maybe it's the presence of the mysterious "vortexes" or the high altitude, but there's



Take a sound bath in the Integratron, near Joshua Tree. CHRISTOPHER MICHEL, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

something about Sedona that has rendered it a hotbed of UFO activity. And if you're a bit of a novice, there are a handful of tours that'll show you the ropes of identifying bona fide UFOs.

The desert town is home to nightly UFO tours. Hosted by experts, these tours take visitors out into the exceptionally clear Sedona nights



Even if you don't see UFOs, the trip to Sedona, Arizona, is worth it. GETTY IMAGES

armed with military-grade night vision goggles to scan the night skies for signs of extraterrestrial activity. When on the tours, novices are taught how to distinguish between stars, aircraft, satellites and (naturally) UFOs. Because knowing what you're not looking for is as important as knowing what you are looking for.

Roswell Crash Site

Is it really a Great American UFO Road Trip without a stop at Roswell? The New Mexico city is, of course, famous for being the site of an alleged alien spacecraft crash. And while certain party-poopers (a.k.a. the U.S. government) have insisted that the 1947 incident was merely a nuclear test surveillance balloon gone awry, the Roswell crash has remained a point of fascination for UFO believers and conspiracy theorists for over half a century.

Intrepid believers looking to do a little investigating of their own at one of the alleged crash sites will have a difficult time of it. The sites are all located in difficult-to-get-to parts of the New Mexico desert outside of the city of Roswell. While there used to be a bus tour (and even a helpful sign) to a site in a field on the outskirts of Corona, visitors looking to venture forth will have to arm themselves with coordinates, a GPS, and possibly an ATV.

Joshua Tree

California was recently bestowed with the auspicious honor of being named the top state for UFO sightings. But of all the Golden State's UFO-

friendly spots, it's Joshua Tree National Park that allows enthusiasts to hit two birds with one stone.

Joshua Tree has been a hub of UFOs and the peo-

ple who seek them out for decades. You can visit the appropriately named Giant Rock that's served as a gathering site for enthusiasts since the 1950s.

Take a "sound bath" in the Integratron, whose creator claims to have been contacted by Venusians with instructions to build a time-travel dome. And of course, there's always striking out into the night in search of unexplainable lights zipping across the sky. You can even go searching for the legendary hidden alien base that's said to be located somewhere beneath the rocky desert landscape.

And if you do happen to have a close encounter and want to share or make sense of your experience, be sure to check out Contact in the Desert. Held May 19-22, is the largest of UFO convention in the U.S., attracting thousands of UFO rookies and experts alike. Attendees can spend the weekend attending lectures on secret excavations in Antarctica, workshops on how to prepare for contact, or even doing a little yoga. (It's still Southern California, after all.)

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Retired Lions receiver Calvin Johnson makes a grab against the Patriots in the 2014 season.

Megatron Patriots own strat

OPINION



MATT BURKE
@burke_metro

In the past week, there have been significant Calvin Johnson NFL return rumors. Could the Hall of Fame-caliber WR be looking at making a comeback, and would that comeback come with the Patriots?

Johnson spoke in a somewhat jealous manner last week about how

top players in the NBA can create superteams, but that it's just not that way in the NFL. For the first time since his retirement last year, he discussed how if he had been part of a winning NFL organization early in his career that he might still be playing.

"Of course I thought about it," Johnson said at an event in Italy about switching NFL teams. "Just like in basketball, you know, guys, they create these superteams. But it's not quite like that in football where I had the



age (31), Johnson would command a bit more of a return due to the impact he'd make with his new team. A future third or fourth round pick might get the job done on the Lions' end of things.

As for which team Johnson would be interested in, and which team would be interested in him, the Patriots remain a perfect

fit. New England is the NFL superteam Johnson speaks of, and one of his best buddies in football — Nate Burleson — has already suggested that Foxboro should be Johnson's next location of football employment.

"Congratulations on your retirement man," Burleson wrote, as an analyst, for NFL.com last year. "Now, take this year off ... then

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would put in their osphere

freedom to just go.

"I was stuck in my contract with Detroit, and they told me, they would not release my contract, so I would have to come back to them. I didn't see the chance for them to win a Super Bowl at the time, and for the work I was putting in, it wasn't worth my time to keep beating my head against the wall and not going anywhere."

The Lions took umbrage with Megatron's remarks and invited him to training camp this week. Johnson is still under

contract with Detroit.

There is too much bad blood for Johnson to return to the Lions. As Mike Florio pointed out at Pro Football Talk Wednesday, the Lions should do Johnson a solid by straight-up releasing him from the reserve/retired list. The model the Lions could use is what the Seahawks did with Marshawn Lynch. Seattle knew Lynch's intentions of signing with the Raiders, and they wound up getting a pick swap out of the deal.

Despite both Johnson and Lynch being the same



"Now, take [2016] off... then find a way to land with the Patriots and get a championship ring. You deserve it."

Calvin Johnson's friend and former NFL receiver Nate Burleson

find a way to land with the Patriots and get a championship ring. You deserve it."

Johnson was hanging

out with Burleson this week at a football camp. Gotta think Burleson reiterated this sentiment, given the recent buzz.



Retired Lions wide receiver Calvin Johnson hauls in a touchdown pass against the Green Bay Packers. ALL PHOTOS COURTESY GETTY IMAGES

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A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR HANLEY RAMIREZ

OPINION

**DANNY
PICARD**
@dannypicard

This is Hanley Ramirez' moment. What he chooses to do with it will define his Red Sox career.

Last Friday, the Boston Red Sox cut ties with Pablo Sandoval. The overpaid third baseman — who took his money and unofficially quit baseball — was officially designated for assignment and then released in the middle of his third season with the organization.

Sandoval signed his five-year, \$95 million deal with the Red Sox almost at the exact same time that Ramirez signed his four-year, \$88 million contract. Because of that, the two will forever be linked. But Ramirez now has a chance to change how we view their connection.

The 53-win Red Sox entered Wednesday night's game against



Hanley Ramirez prepares to be mobbed by his Red Sox teammates at home plate after hitting a walk-off homer Tuesday night against Toronto. GETTY IMAGES

the Toronto Blue Jays as the first-place team in the AL East, just two

games ahead of the second-place Tampa Bay Rays and three-and-a-half games ahead of the third-place New York Yankees. That 53rd win came as a result of Ramirez' walk-off solo home run in the 15th inning on Tuesday night. It was his 15th home run and 37th RBI of the season.

Ramirez finished last season with 30 home runs and 111 RBIs, with a batting average of .286 as the Red Sox first baseman. That type of production was a promising sign that Ramirez would be a nice fit as the team's new designated hitter this season, following David Ortiz' retirement.

But 2017 hasn't necessarily been a positive one for Ramirez, who's hitting .257 with an OPS of .792. He blames it on banged-up shoulders. Yet, the human eye can see an inconsistent interest-level. Whatever the reason, there's no denying that everyone in Boston is

Red Sox WKND

The Red Sox (53-42) will make their final West Coast trip of the season beginning this weekend as they'll face the Angels in Anaheim for three games and then the Mariners in Seattle for three.

The mediocre Angels (46-50) will get Boston's best right out of the gate as Chris Sale (11-4, 2.59) will get the ball for the Sox on Friday (10:07 p.m., NESN). David Price (5-2, 3.39 ERA) is slated to go Saturday night for the Sox with Rick Porcello (4-12, 4.60 ERA) scheduled to throw Sunday afternoon. — Matt Burke

asking Ramirez to be better than he has been through 95 games this season.

With the non-waiver trade deadline less than two weeks away, the Red Sox will certainly be kicking the tires on deals that would land them a third baseman

who can hit, preferably, for power. The reason? Sandoval was a colossal bust. The other reason? Ramirez hasn't been the big-swinging slugger he's currently paid to be, while holding down Ortiz's old DH spot.

But perhaps Tuesday night's walk-off home run was a sign of things to come for the rest of the season. Last year, Ramirez hit 22 of his 30 home runs in the second half. If he can heat up the same way this year, then he can be the power hitter the team was looking to acquire for the stretch run.

In the process, he can also cleanse himself of the connection to Sandoval. Sure, both players were signed at the same time, but Ramirez can make it a point to prove that only one of the two kept fighting to help the Red Sox win back-to-back division titles, and possibly more.

The organization had seen enough of Sandoval, so president of baseball operations

15

HANLEY RAMIREZ'S HOME RUN TOTAL SO FAR THIS SEASON. IN 2016, HE JACKED 30 HOMERS.

Dave Dombrowski decided to cut ties with him. As long as Ramirez underachieves, he'll continue to be linked to the Panda as the guy who came to the Red Sox with him and didn't live up to the paycheck.

They arrived in Boston together. Now, only one has an opportunity to silence the critics.

But that'll be up to Ramirez.

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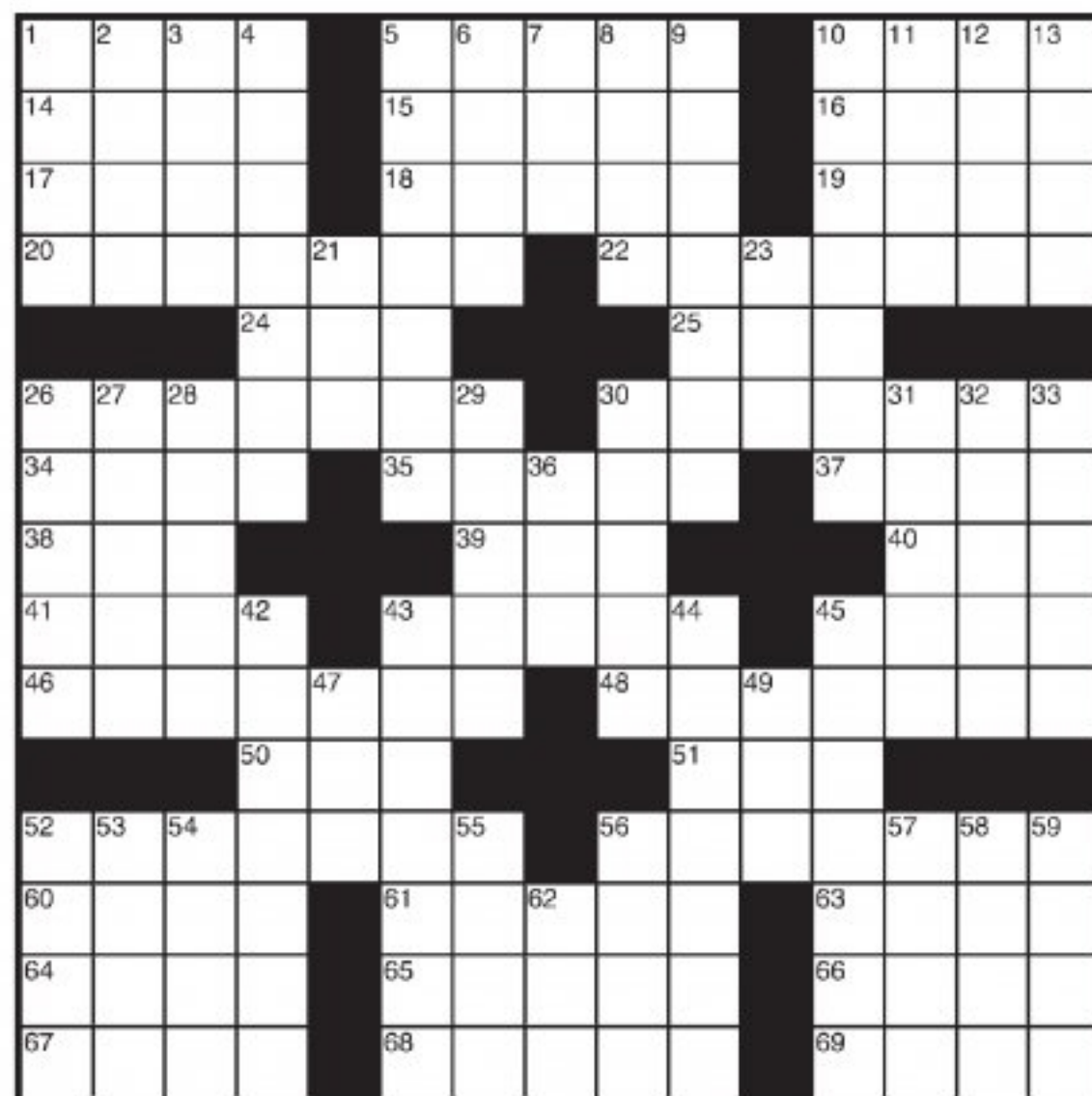
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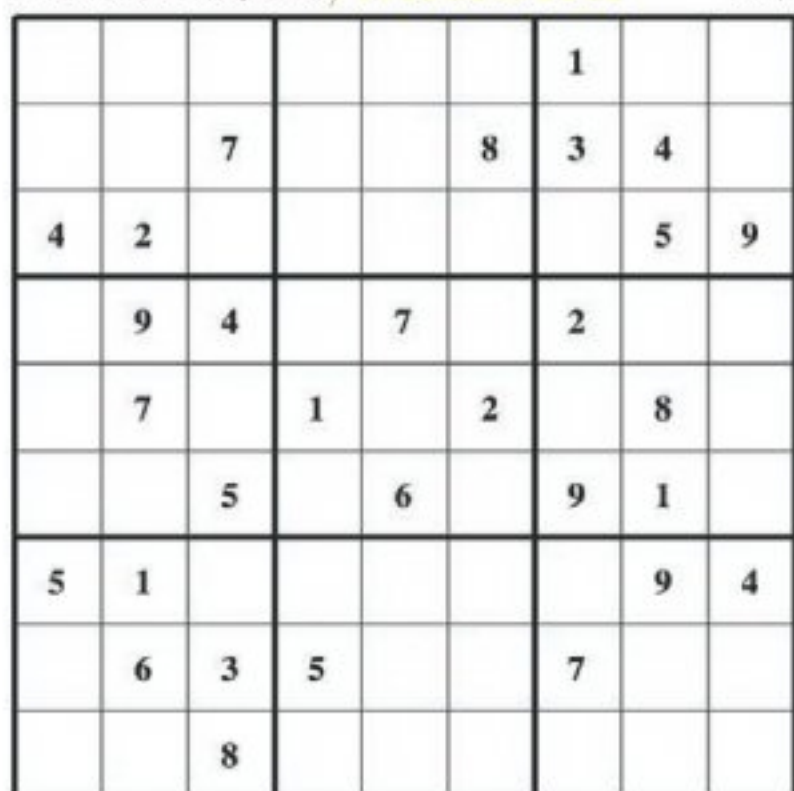
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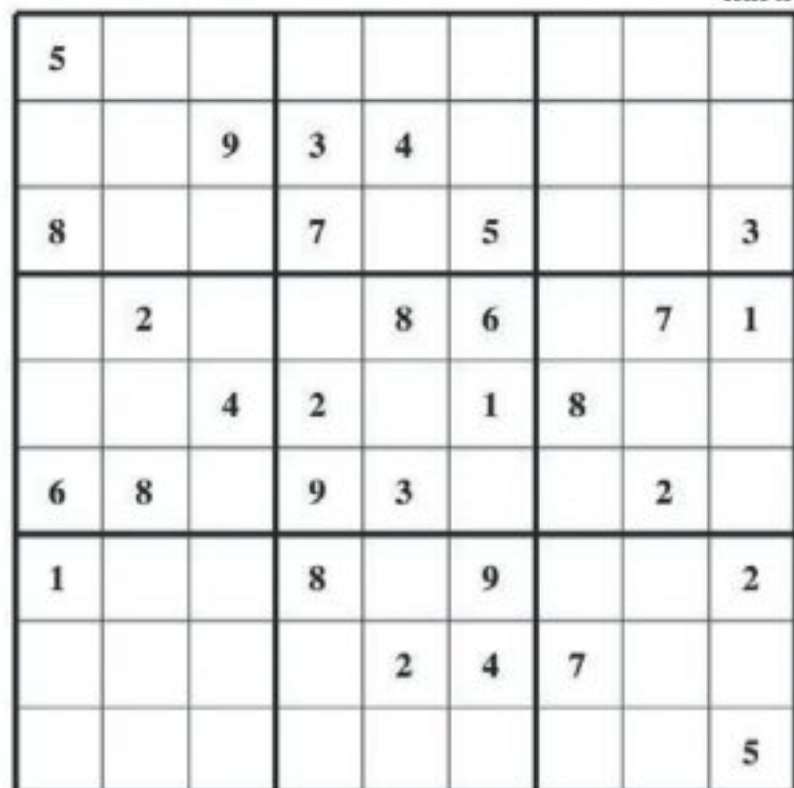
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